

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claims 1, 5-21, 23-29, 32, 34, 37-40, 42, 43, 47, 51 and 52, have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery, et al. (EP 0719597) in view of Humes, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,120).

Cordery discloses the following in column 4, lines 36-45.

"Turning to figure 3, apparatus 50 is connected to host computer 52 to receive job data which is generated as described above. Apparatus 50 includes document printer 56, which is preferably a laser printer including printer controller 58 and a conventional document printer engine 60, which is preferably a Canon model LBP NX, and a mail finishing unit 64 which receives the printed documents from printer engine 60 and inserts them into envelopes to form mail pieces in accordance with the mail piece data, as will be described below. "

Apparatus 50, printer controller 58 and document printer engine 60 are located at the same location. Cordery also does not disclose a terminal node and a first node.

Cordery discloses the following in Col. 6, lines 3 -9:

" The mail piece then proceeds to flap closer station 86, sealer 90 and output stacker 94 where the completed mail piece, including all preprinted inserts and BRE's, with an address and possible return address printed on a conventional envelope, and which has been sealed if so specified, is output for franking with the proper postage and delivery to the postal service."

Cordery discloses outputting the mail piece for applying postage or franking the mailpieces.

The Examiner stated the following in page 4 of the September 29, 2009 Office action.

"Cordery et al., does not specifically teach that said terminal node, to which said print job is transmitted, is not co-located with nor under the control of said first node."

Humes discloses the following in his Abstract:

"...The apparatus can take pre-printed, unaddressed mail pieces of non identical size delivered to the mailing service from different merchants and combine the mail pieces to create mailing bundles at the lowest postal rate and group the bundles to create a single mailing."

Humes discloses the following in lines 28-49 of col. 3.

As seen in FIG. 1, the apparatus of the present invention will be described as capable of handling four input sources 11,12,15,14. It will be appreciated that the apparatus is conveniently modularized and is not limited to four inputs. The input sources are merchants, or other mailing service customers, typically with different pieces, 17, 18, 19, 20 to have mailed; and different address lists, or data bases, 23, 24, 25, 26, to which the pieces must be mailed.

The data bases 23-26 are merged and sorted according to the lowest common postal rate by a digital data handling apparatus or apparatuses, hereinafter simply called first computer 29, as further explained below, to produce a merged data base 31. A second computer, hereinafter called a sequence controller 57, then uses the merged data base 51 in conjunction with other programming to control the piece handling machinery 33 used to physically commingle, address and segregate the pieces 17-20 into groups of packages, or bundles, constituting mailing 35 suitable for delivery to the post office 37 to be delivered at the lowest available postal rate.

Thus, Humes is a presort house that is used to obtain postal discounts. Humes does not disclose a second printer that prints documents in accordance with characteristics selected at a first node.

Cordery and/or Humes taken separately or together do not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon. Namely,

- (d) transmitting electronically said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;
- (e) receiving said print job at said terminal node said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece , said mail production means further comprising:
 - (i) a first printer; and
 - (ii) a second printer;

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate, separately or together, the method and system of defining and producing the finished mail piece claimed by Applicants. Applicants claim a method and system that allow a user to select at a first node a plurality of characteristics that define a mailing. Once the selections have been made, the selected information is transmitted to a terminal node, wherein the terminal node is not co-located with or under the control of the first node so that the terminal node may control the time of production of mail pieces. The terminal node may also direct the production of mail pieces to mail production means for producing the mail, wherein a second printer at the terminal node prints the document in accordance with the characteristics selected at the first node, and the printed document is inserted into an envelope to form an unfinished envelope which is subsequently franked. Hence, the mail piece may be directed to specific mail production means so that mail pieces may be produced efficiently or produced at a site that is closer to the recipient of the mail piece. Thus, the mail piece may be delivered in less time since it may be electronically transmitted to a site where it is produced and subsequently mailed from a site that is closer to the recipient.

Cordery and/or Humes taken separately or together do not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 15 and those claims dependent thereon. Namely,

- (b) transmission means for transmitting said mailing to a second data processing means wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of said first data processing means;
- (c) second data processing means for receiving said mailing and downloading said mailing to a plurality of printer means comprising a first printer and a second printer;

Regarding claim 15, the prior art cited by the Examiner does not allow one to control the time for producing a mail piece consisting of a document and an envelope that utilize transmitting means to transmit a mailing to second data processing means that are not co-located with or under the control of first data processing means. Furthermore, the document is printed at a second printer located at the second data

processing means whereby the document is subsequently inserted into an envelope which is then sealed and franked to reduce the time for delivering the mail piece to a recipient.

Cordery and/or Humes do not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 20 and those claims dependent thereon. Namely, creating a document and storing said document in electronic form;

transmitting said document, said address list and said characteristics to a terminal mode wherein said terminal [node] mode is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;

printing said document in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node;

providing said printed envelope with evidence of postage payment.

Regarding claim 20 the art cited by the Examiner does not define and produce a mailing by transmitting an electronic document, characteristics of a mailing produced at a first node, and an address list to a terminal node wherein the terminal node is not co-located with or under the control of the first node so that a document is printed in accordance with the characteristics selected at the first node. Then the document is inserted into a corresponding printed envelope and provided with evidence of postage payment.

Regarding claim 38 the art cited by the Examiner does not disclose a system for producing a mail piece that has second data processing means for electronically receiving said selected document, address list and characteristics and directing said selected document, address list and characteristics to a mail production means, wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;

said mail production means comprising first means for printing said selected document in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics, second means for printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope,

means for printing said corresponding envelope with evidence of postage payment, and means for inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope.

Claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery, in view of Humes and further in view of Seki et al (US 5,121,195) and further in view of Lombardo (U.S. Patent 5,346,123).

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and claims 30, 31 and 33 are dependent on claim 20. For the reasons indicated above in the discussion of claims 1 and 20, claims 2, 30, 31 and 33 are patentable.

Claims 3, 4, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery, in view of Humes and further in view of Rosenbaum et al (US 5,031,223).

Claims 3 and 4 are dependent on claim 1, claims 35 and 36 are dependent on claim 20 and claims 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 are dependent on claim 38. For the reasons indicated above in the discussion of claims 1 and 38, claims 3, 4, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46 and 48-50 are patentable.

In view of the above, claims 1-21, 23-40 and 45-52 are patentable. If any questions should arise, will the Examiner please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

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